



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Construction General Permit – Comment, hearing dates change – The SWRCB has extended the public comment period until March 30, 2004, for the proposed modifications to the Fact Sheet for this permit. The permit regulates runoff from construction sites. The Fact Sheet explains the monitoring requirements and has been revised several times. The March 30 hearing has been rescheduled for May 4. The hearing notice and draft Fact Sheet are posted: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html>

Ballona Creek – LA County petitions SWRCB for change in standards – One of the beneficial uses designated for Ballona Creek is water-contact recreation - REC-1. This designation includes very stringent water quality objectives for bacteria that are often exceeded by stormwater runoff. LA Regional Board staff determined that this beneficial use designation was inappropriate for the upper reaches of Ballona Creek. The Board staff prepared a *Use Attainability Analysis* as required by the Clean Water Act whenever a beneficial use designation is changed for a waterway. In this case the UAA concluded that recreational use was never attained and is not feasible in certain segments of the river. The LA Board staff recommended removal of the REC-1 designation for one upper segment and modification of another segment to "Limited REC-1." Both actions mean that less stringent bacteria standards would apply. The proposal was intended to bring the designated uses more in line with actual or feasible uses. The changes would also ease the compliance burden for stormwater runoff. This action would potentially save the costs of providing disinfection to wet weather discharges to these waterways.

The LA Regional Board considered the proposed changes to the beneficial use designation at its June 5, 2003, meeting and rejected them. EPA had testified that the changes met federal regulations but several environmental groups opposed lessening the requirements. Now LA County has petitioned the SWRCB to review the Regional Board's decision not to change the standards. The petition has statewide significance because UAAs have been considered an option for addressing compliance problems for situations where beneficial use designations appear inappropriate. The petition is SWRCB file A-1622; comments are due March 29 to Sheila Vassey at the Board – svassey@exec.swrcb.ca.gov. For information on the petition: Howard Gest, hgest@burhenngest.com or (213) 688-7715.

Upcoming events

- *Meeting: California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)* - May 14 in Sacto; 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; fee: \$40, paid at the door; *topic: Watershed and Regional Solutions:* <http://www.casqa.org/>
- *Short Course - Stormwater Treatment: How It Works (Or Does It?);* by Gary Minton; 2-days: May 12, 13. Point Richmond, CA; <http://www.stormwaterbook.com/workshop/>
- *Conference – Stormcon* – July 26-29, Palm Desert; includes CASQA workshop; <http://www.forester.net/sc.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/index.htm> Click: *Storm Water Bulletins*